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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 4 (e))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

1. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 1 and 2 June 1998, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme transmitted under cover of a note by the Secretary-General stating his concurrence with the recommendations contained in the report (E/AC.51/1998/3).

Discussion

2. It was agreed that the Programme was of high priority. Concern was expressed about the lack of resources in view of the extensive mandates that the Programme had to carry out and the importance of priority-setting was pinpointed. It was noted that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had strategic management responsibility for the Programme and was involved in streamlining its work and thus reducing the demands for substantive servicing so that more resources could be devoted to providing technical assistance to the countries in need. The Commission had also started work on a more dynamic approach to fund-raising. The role of Member States in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme, including in the reduction of the heavy reporting requirements, was pointed out.

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3. It was regretted that terrorism had not been covered in the in-depth evaluation report, despite its high-priority nature as identified in the medium-term plan. It was felt that the mainstreaming of gender issues should have been reflected in the report. The view was expressed that the evaluation should have looked into the various forms of organized transnational crime, economic crime, the laundering of the proceeds of crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, environmental offences and illicit traffic in children.

4. It was agreed that a public information strategy would be useful to enhance the visibility of the Programme and support for it; such a strategy could also be used with an educational aim concentrating, in particular, on crime prevention and its root causes.

5. It was pointed out that cooperation of the Centre for International Crime Prevention with regional institutions should be considered a crucial element of the strategy of the Programme and should be encouraged.

6. The view was expressed that attention should be devoted to ensuring that the coordination or cooperation mechanisms work well given the array of partners of the Programme.

7. The significant development of electronic tools for dissemination was noted, but it was felt that traditional hard-copy forms of documentation should not be neglected. The view was expressed that high importance should be given to the assistance to be provided to the developing countries to enable them to use electronic tools such as the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) and the United Nations Crime and Justice Clearing House (UNOJUST) adequately.

8. It was noted with satisfaction that the Programme included a regional adviser for Asia and the Pacific based at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and funded from extrabudgetary sources, and that significant substantive contributions were being made under this arrangement. However, concern was expressed that in the $30 million allocated to the regional commissions under the regular programme of technical cooperation, there was no provision for work on crime prevention and criminal justice; it was hoped that this situation would be redressed in the context of future regular budget allocations.

9. The view was expressed that the Centre for International Crime Prevention should also explore the possibility of cooperating with subregional organizations having responsibilities for crime prevention and criminal justice wherever they existed.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee was of the view that the Programme should give adequate attention to all mandated activities, *inter alia*, to the activities included as priorities in the medium-term plan.

11. The Committee recalled the high priority that Member States attached to the Programme and endorsed recommendations 1 to 17 contained in section V of the report.

12. The Committee recommended that the crucial role and mandate of the Department of Public Information should be borne in mind.